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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 26 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 23 September 2013, on the illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 26 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the continuous illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region in flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the commitments undertaken under the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement. After the resumption of the installation of barbed-wire fences in the village of Ditsi, Gori district, along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region, the Russian occupation forces, since 22 September 2013, have intensively reactivated this illegal policy in the village of Dvani, Kareli district.

Unfortunately, the local population has again been prevented from accessing agricultural land and carrying out agricultural work. Despite an international call, the Russian Federation continues to blatantly violate the fundamental rights and freedoms of the population residing in the occupied territories and their vicinity, including, but not limited to, the rights to free movement, education in one's native language and other civil, economic and cultural rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia once again expresses its profound concern over the humanitarian consequences of the illegal activities of Russia along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region and strongly stresses that Russia, as an occupying power, maintaining its illegal military presence within the internationally recognized borders of Georgia and exercising effective control over the Tskhinvali and Abkhazia regions of Georgia, bears responsibility under international law to desist from the violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the population residing in the occupied regions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon partner States and international organizations to undertake appropriate and effective measures to immediately stop and reverse the illegal activities of Russia along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia. The ongoing illegal activities of the Russian Federation and their humanitarian implications underscore the urgency of the establishment of international security and human rights monitoring mechanisms.

Tbilisi, 23 September 2013